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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 June 1998 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In follow up to my letter of 18 June 1998 (A/52/958-S/1998/535), I would like to inform you that yesterday, 21 June 1998, the Israeli Government approved the programme announced by the Prime Minister, which aims at strengthening Israel's illegal hold on Jerusalem. As we indicated in our prior letter, the plan would expand the border of Jerusalem and would extend the municipal authority over some Jewish settlements in the West Bank, establishing a so-called "umbrella authority". This is a concrete step towards the illegal annexation of more occupied Palestinian land to the already illegally expanded Jerusalem municipality. It also aims at maintaining or creating a specific demographic composition.

The Israeli plan is not only a provocation for the Palestinian people, it is a gross violation of international law and it is definitely detrimental to the current peace process. The demagogic and outrageous statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister in this regard only underline this fact.

The Security Council has adopted 16 resolutions regarding the city of Jerusalem, and has repeatedly declared that all measures and arrangements taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including the legislative and administrative ones, which aim at changing the legal status, demographic composition and character of the city are null and void without any legal validity whatsoever. Further, the Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the

Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including Jerusalem.

We reiterate our belief that the Security Council, as the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, is under obligation to take specific concrete measures to prevent the above-mentioned plan and any other Israeli violations of international law and the Council's own resolutions. We specifically request that the Council consider the situation in a formal meeting and take the necessary measures in this regard.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations